







# THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.  
WILMINGTON, N. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1864.

## POLITICS IN NORTH CAROLINA.

There are some, curiously among the number, who would gladly avoid the excitement and turmoil of a political contest this year in North Carolina. We think one contest, that with the forces and government of LINCOLN is about enough. But much as we would wish this, we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that, without any agency of ours, indeed against our earnest protest, the canvass has already commenced with an activity that bids fair, ere the day of election, now over four months off, to rival in excitement and far exceed in bitterness any of the contests of former times. We suppose chances must come, but woe unto those by whom chances come.

We did not help to elect Gov. VANCE, but he was elected, and the Standard and its editor, with its satellites, took much credit to themselves therefor. Indeed they exalted themselves as it were, and felt proud—They crowded and strutted. The contest there was one into which we entered reluctantly. We tried to avoid it, but it was pressed on us, and we could not.

The time for another election, begins to approach, though we cannot but regret the early opening of the canvass, and this spring finds us even more opposed to a political campaign in North Carolina than we were two years ago, and more reluctant to engage in one. We are willing to solve the difficulty by letting the re-election of Governor VANCE pass over without opposition, believing that to be upon the whole, the best thing for the State and for the country. This is no new position assumed in consequence of Mr. HOLDEN's being a candidate, although certainly it is not weakened by that event. When the *Progress*, or its correspondents, talk about the reasons for our favouring the re-election of Governor VANCE, they can be at no loss to find them. We have stated them over and over—We have already stated them even in this brief article. Permit us, however, to retell by asking why they now oppose Governor VANCE? Let them speak out boldly and say what he has done that *they* turn against him. They know—everybody knows—that it is customary for a Governor of North Carolina to run for two terms, and that the incumbent is never abandoned by the party or parties which supported him without the imputation of fault upon his part, or the stain of bad faith upon theirs.

What has Mr. HOLDEN and his supporters to charge upon Governor VANCE, so as to relieve themselves from the stain of treachery above alluded to? Unless they have charge to prefer and are able to support them, they most stand convicted of bad faith to the "Conservative" candidate whom they supported, and, as they proudly boasted, were instrumental in electing; and worse than this, they must appear in the attitude of those who, without a cause, seek, for purposes of selfish promotion, to violate the established usage of all parties, and of the State, and to embroil us needlessly in an irritating and uncalled-for political contest. In this case, it should be remembered that Mr. HOLDEN and his friends are seeking to unseat Governor VANCE, a man whom they themselves supported and endorsed, and that it is abominable upon them not simply to show that Mr. HOLDEN is fit for Governor, and ought to be elected, but in the first place to show that Governor VANCE is not fit and ought to be unseated.

Supposing, however, that Mr. HOLDEN and Mr. HOLDEN's friends should change and even show that Governor VANCE is not the man, it would strike most persons that in doing so they would be simply charging and proving that they themselves, not two years since supported and recommended to the people of the State, for the highest office in their gift, an unfit or improper person. If this is the fact, it would surely look better for them to let somebody else bring out the next candidate, since they had, by their own account, failed in the one they had brought out. What guarantee would the people have that Mr. HOLDEN and his clique are more worthy of confidence now than in 1862, or that their candidate now brought out is more worthy of confidence than the one then brought out and supported but now abandoned and opposed?

Let them take which horn of the dilemma they please, it must appear either that Governor VANCE is a fit man and that Mr. HOLDEN and his friends are faithless in abandoning and opposing him, or on the other hand that he is an unfit man and that Mr. HOLDEN having supported him and pressed him upon the people two years since, is himself unworthy of the public confidence now.

The truth is that the whole burden both of proof and contradiction rests with Mr. HOLDEN and Mr. HOLDEN's friends. We do not claim to be especially supporters of Gov. VANCE. We certainly are not partisans. We will support his re-election for the sake of peace. Why does Mr. HOLDEN not do so? Why does he desert and oppose Gov. VANCE? Is he so opposed to peace and harmony among ourselves? Is he prepared to say that *he* two years ago brought forward and vouchsafed for a candidate whom he cannot now support? When these things are disposed of, it will be time for us to pay some attention to Mr. HOLDEN's claims on the public confidence.

*Fasting is not Praying.—The Last Day.*—Had the fast instead of the eighth day of April been fixed upon as a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer, we think it probable that one part of the object would have certainly been carried out. We say nothing about the praying, but we are pretty certain about the fasting. And as for the humiliation and prayer, we think they would come in due course. People who want to beg, buy, borrow or steal anything to eat, are humble enough, and the constant effort of housekeepers may be embodied in the petition for daily food.

This, however, is the last day of fasting, and people who intend to fund better see to it let them be too late. This warning, however, has been given so often that there are none to whom it has not come; so the parties themselves will be alone to blame for any neglect or forgetfulness. The new currency will come into circulation pretty soon, and we shall see how far it will work for good or evil. It ought to do good to recompense us for the difficulties, inconveniences, and loss of business to which all have been compelled to submit since the passage of the currency bill.

Will prices come down after the first of April? We think they will—elsewhere. It would be against the rule for them to come down here, very much so indeed, and well, let us wait and see, that's all.

The quiet resignation and even cheerfulness with which our people submit to the action of the currency and tax bills, as they have done to all bills deemed necessary for the country, is something which must have struck all reflecting men with astonishment and admiration. The equal resignation with which they submit to extinction and speculation, that are not necessary for the country, is also sufficiently astonishing, but not so much as deserving of admiration. The facility with which they fall into habits of extorting from each other, is one of the least pleasing features of the war.

*Daily Journal, 1st instant.*

**FINDING.—The Fayetteville Carolinian of the 31st ult. says: "We understand that nearly two millions of dollars had been funded in this place up to last evening."**

From the same paper we learn that the warehouses of the Rockfish Manufacturing Company in Fayetteville were broken into on the night of the 29th instant, and a bale of cotton sheeting stolen. Part of the sheetings have been recovered, and some of the perpetrators (one group) have been caught.

**The Results of the Spring Campaign.**  
It may be regarded as somewhat unusual whether the results of the various movements undertaken this year by the Yankees, though, upon the whole, disastrous to them, add gloom to our gallant arms, can be regarded as likely to be productive of unmixed good to us. If they have been repelled—if instead of finding us unprepared and our armies weakened, they have found a different, we might say, an opposite state of things prevailing, they at once have gained an amount of knowledge that may stimulate them to still further efforts, and perhaps save us from some of the disasters to which their presumption, based upon our supposed weakness, would, or rarely have subjected them during the coming summer. We may be assured that the Florida disaster, the "Yankee" failure, the Richmond bungle, have at least taught them caution, and have enabled them to make a clearer estimate of the position of affairs and of the difficulties they will have to encounter. It may force them to adopt the policy of a greater concentration of their forces and of a more guarded system of advance. For any great additional preparations they will have little time, if, as appears to be stated, they mean to open the grand campaign against Dixie on the 15th of April. The Yankees are great on impulse, impulsive and we should not be at all surprised were GRANT induced to select this day, the anniversary of the fulmination of LINCOLN's first proclamation, as the day for opening a campaign which he fondly hopes to make final, and by which he flatters himself that he can inflict a death blow to this rebellion."

**The Spirit of the Times.**  
We are with our papers from our own State or Virginia, and have a regular irregular budget from points South of this place.

We find in the Atlanta *Register*, of the 29th, a

very long article on our north-south relations, wherein the *pros* and *cons* are discussed as to whether, at the

beginning of the war, the spirit of peace were actually

made to the States of the Northwest, or whether, if

they had been made, they would have been off and on

helping to arrest hostilities. A "Kirkpatrick" takes

the ground that if the legislation of the Montgomery

Congress did not favor the free navigation of the Mississippi, such favor was not known in the Northwest;

not at least until after occurrences had taken place that

interfered with that free navigation, and brought on

the collision for which Seward was striving. "Kirk-

tpatrick" says: "The strength of LINCOLN's antago-

nist, [in the next Presidential election] who should be

FRANKLIN PIERCE, in the Northwest, depends, in a

great measure, upon the universality of the belief in

those States that their rights, as regards the free naviga-

tion of the Mississippi, will be conceded by the

States of the South." If there is anything that the

press of the South could do or do that could tend to

strengthen a peace candidate at the North, entertain-

ing the States Rights view of Mr. Pierce, that thing

would be to correct the mistake that originally precipi-

tated hostilities at the West, and to give assurances

that the free navigation of the Mississippi would not be interfered with. Whether this is desirable or not

is a matter for consideration. Evidently, so far as we

can see, GEORGE B. MCLELLAN will not be a candi-

date representing Mr. Pierce's State Rights views.

The following from the Columbus (Ga.) *Times* will

throw light upon dark subjects and perhaps help to

correct some errors to which vaporing agitators and

pragmatical talkers would be apt to lead the people:

**ESTONIAN HISTORY—SUSPENSE OR THE HABERS CORS—Governor BROOKES RECALLS HIS MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE.**—The Atlanta *Constitution* reports that the Habsburg Congress has adjourned, as of course, in the absence of the British Parliament, by which the written address was suspended. It was not intended with the instrument of trust since 1858, but he says, "extraordinary degree of ignorance of common practice and of international law." We can only say that the author of this article is a fool, and a dangerous one at that.

**RESOLVED.** That Governor VANCE be invited to address the citizens of Sampson County, at such time as will fit his convenience; and that the chairman of this meeting propose to him, when he comes to visit the State, to present him to our honored Chief Magistrate, Z. B. Vance, for him to know that he is a patriot and a statesman, whose every action is directed to the accomplishment of our nationality, the advancement of our independence and the honor of our country.

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